

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, August 8, 1758,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART.**

CRESAPS Augt. 8th. 1758

MY DEAR SIR

Early this morning I had the very great pleasure of recg. your very acceptable Letter of yesterday, Covering Major Halkett's of the 2d. Inst., and with infinite satisfaction observe that fresh mark of your sincere Friendship, and would be quite happy by Fortune's presenting me with opportunities of testifying the high sense which my grateful heart will ever retain of it<sup>1</sup> —

I need not say how happy I should be in being with you but from the Majr's. method of mentioning it I imagine it might not be agreeable, and perhaps might be made use off as an acquittance from other Promises — On the other hand should any thing happen the General for whose Recovery I begin to be afraid, I should be very unhappy in the Horse — I have wrote at large to the Majr. on the Subject which I inclose you open, when you peruse it be so good as to Seal & forward it if it can remain undetermin'd till you receive an answer it's well if not without inconvenience I must give up thoughts of it and trust to Promises as usual — O! wretched Dependance! how severe are your Laws, and how miserable your Votarys! Would Heaven be pleas'd to extricate me from your Clutches no fair Promises nor Gilded Prospects should even tempt me to venture in your reach But

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notwithstanding unerring Experience has taught me how little the Promises of the Great are to be depended on yet alas! it's all I have to Trust to — After having wasted so much of my Youth, impair'd my Constitution and sank the means of getting a livelyhood in another way, I with horror behold myself plung'd in greater uncertaintys Than when I first Enter'd the Service But such are often the Fruits of Ambition — Should I survive the war my ruin appears inevitable

As the Officer who came to Relieve Mr. Gist did not get here till near Reville Beating Mr. Gist thought it would be imprudent to set out before Evening, but as he proposes leaving Fort Cumberland before day to morrow makes no doubt of overtaking Capt. McKenzie.

Tom waits on you for your orders for a Coat & Jacket, I will furnish him with Shirts, Stockgs. & Ce. and as there must soon be many more Coats than Men I imagine a Coat & Jackett might readily be spard he is extremely willing to be put under Stoppages till your accot. against him is paid —

As the Grass here begins to grow scarce, I send all the Horses to a Plantation about half a mile from hence for 5 or 6 hours every day, and reserves what remains here for the Sheep & Horned Cattle —

I ever am with the highest Esteem & greatest Deference

My Dear Colonel Your most Affecte. & Most Obliged hble Servt. ROBERT STEWART

Please offer my Compléments. to Colos. Byrd & Mercer

1 CAMP AT FORT CUMBERLAND, August 11, 1758. MY DEAR LIEUTENANT, — I am sorry to transmit an order that will give you pain, but must nevertheless tell you that the following came in a letter from Colo. Bouquet to me last night. "As our troop of light-horse is too much harassed by continual service, I desire you will send me half of Captain Stewart's troop, with one or two of his officers, as you may think necessary to take care of them". As the Colonel gives me a discretionary power to send one or two, one must be his lot; and that I think should be your Cornet, as Mr. Crawford is appointed to the Troop pro tempore only, he should be put to little inconvenience. — It will be scarcely worth your while to confine yourself to the other half of your troop; I should be glad, therefore, to have your company at this place, as I think you may trust to Mr. Crawford's care. However in this case, pursue your own inclinations. Your letter to Major Halkett got to Raystown in less than 24 hours after

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you wrote it. I shall appoint no person to do Brigade-Major's Duty, until I hear from that Gentleman, as you may be assured in this, as in all things else I have the strongest inclination to serve you; being Dear Stewart, with most Unfeigned truth your affectionate friend, and obedient servant, GEO: WASHINGTON.